

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 were pending in this matter at the time of the Office Action. As a result of this amendment, claims 1, 2 and 11-24 have been canceled and claim 3 has been amended.

The response below is made in view of the amended claims.

Election/Restrictions

Based upon the response to the previous Office Action, the Examiner set forth an election/restriction, but as now amended, it is believed each of the issues raised thereby are moot.

Inventorship

It is acknowledged that the inventorship of the application has now been corrected in accordance with the petition. Applicant awaits the corrected filing receipt as indicated.

Specification

The Abstract is now set forth on a separate sheet as required. Further, the prior amendments to the application noted by the Examiner have been deleted, and amendments made in paragraph 17 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. It is believed that the Figures clearly show the features of the invention as described in the amended specification. the thickened end portion of the side walls is clearly shown, and as now set forth in the specification and claims, is clearly supported.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112, first paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 3-10 under USC §112, first paragraph, for various issues relating to the claim language. The claims as now amended address the issues raised by the Examiner and the claim as now set forth are clearly supported. In claim 3, the rim-engaging surfaces are stated to comprise a thickened portion as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 1A for example, and as described in the specification as a “thickened portion”. Although the term “lobe-like” was used in the specification as originally filed, it was merely used to indicate the thickening of the sidewall in this region. The invention as shown as described clearly supports the present claimed invention, and clearly distinguishes the prior art. The applicant believes the claims as now amended comply with 35 USC § 112, and these rejections should be withdrawn. In this regard, if any further issues are present relating to these rejections, the Examiner is

Docket No: 116700-1

Serial No: 09/849,854

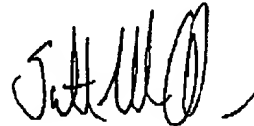
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003

requested to call Applicant's representative to discuss and resolve such issues.

CONCLUSION

The applicant believes claims 3-10 as now amended are in compliance with 35 USC §112, first paragraph, and clearly distinguish from the cited prior art. No new matter has been introduced into the specification and the invention is fully enabled and described. In view of the amendments made herein, prompt reconsideration and allowance of the claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott M. Oldham
Reg. No. 32,712

HAHN LOESER + PARKS, LLP
1225 West Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44313-7188
Customer No. 021324
(330) 864-5550

Attorney Docket No.: 6700-1